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25X1 SUBJECT

Heavy Howitzer Artillery Regiment of TV [redacted]

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- 25X1 1. In early July 1953, KVPD [redacted] a Schweres Haubitzkommando (Howitzer Artillery Regiment) was stationed in a tent camp about 12 km north of Pasewalk and 10 km south of Torgelow. The unit belonged to Heeresgruppe Nord and was organized as follows:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>NCOs</u>	<u>EM</u>
Headquarters	35	5	15
Supply detail	8	7	30
Medical unit	1	3	6
School	13	11	56
I through III Abteilung each	31	31	142
Reconnaissance unit	31	13	90
Headquarters battery	7	6	40
Total	188	138	663

The set-up of the school was as follows:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>NCOs</u>	<u>EM</u>
Staff	6	1	1
1st Section (radio operators)	1	1	7
2d Section (telephone operators)	1	1	6
3d Section (computers)	1	2	10

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4th Section (1st Fire Control Section)	1	2	8
5th Section (2d Fire Control Section)	1	1	7
6th Section (drivers)	1	1	9
7th Section (drivers)		2	8

25X1 2. KVP officers [redacted] included:

Lieutenant General Heinz Hoffmann, deputy commanding general for training at the Ministry of the Interior;

Major General Rudolf Doelling, in charge of FK matters at the Ministry of the Interior;

Major General Hermann Rentsch, commanding general of Heeresgruppe Nord;

Colonel Heinrich Neitsch, FK officer of Heeresgruppe Nord;

Lieutenant Colonel Walter Petter, chief of the KVP artillery;

25X1 Major Gaertner (fmu), commanding officer of KVPD [redacted]

Captain Moeller (fmu), FK officer;

Senior Lieutenant Schiller (fmu), chief of staff;

Senior Lieutenant Wolfgang Duehring, chief of the school of Schweres Haubitzkommando;

Senior Lieutenant Schmilguhn (fmu), commanding officer of the 1st Abteilung;

Senior Lieutenant Saagebarth (fmu), commanding officer of the 2d Abteilung;

Senior Lieutenant Bomblitz (fmu), commanding officer of the 3d Abteilung;

Senior Lieutenant Hampal, commanding officer of the reconnaissance unit;

Senior Lieutenant Lindner (fmu), commanding officer of the headquarters battery.

25X1 Between 18 and 22 July 1953, all the Soviet advisors were withdrawn from KVPD [redacted] and left by truck for Pasewalk. A total of 15 Soviets were involved. [redacted] a Soviet major attached to the school of the Schweres Haubitzkommando [redacted] was scheduled to return to his artillery unit stationed about 120 km from the Crimea. 2

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3. The Schweres Haubitzkommando was equipped with 26x152-mm howitzers and 14x122-mm howitzers all of them of Soviet make. In detail the howitzers were distributed as follows:

School: 2 x 152-mm howitzers and 2 x 122-mm howitzers;

1st Abteilung: 12x152-mm howitzers;

2d Abteilung : 12x152-mm howitzers;

3d Abteilung : 12x122-mm howitzers. 1

4. On 15 July 1953, the 1st through 3d Abteilung transferred their 4th Batteries to another unit. One 152-mm battery each moved to Glogowen and Halle, while a 122-mm battery transferred to Gotha. The batteries involved and all their equipment were moved by rail, each battery consisting of 75 to 80 men. The batteries were equipped with 4 guns and 5 tractors. 3

25X1 5. KVPD [redacted] was equipped with 50 model Stalinez-4 tractors, five per battery; 25 H 3 A trucks; 25 Phaenomen-type trucks; 2 command cars; 2 tank trucks with a model G-5 trailer each; 1 model G-5 shop truck; and 8 BMW sedans.

6. In April 1953, the first firing practices with live ammunition were held with 122-mm howitzers in Jaegerbrueck. The firing practices were attended by all officers of the regiment. About 24 July 1953, the 9th Battery of the 3d Abteilung held firing practices with 152-mm howitzers in Jaegerbrueck. The practices were attended by the best officers and NCOs of the entire regiment, a total of about 200.

7. Of the effectives of the unit, 5 percent belonged to the 1920 through 1925 classes, 30 percent to the 1926 through 1930 classes and 65 percent to the 1931 through 1936 classes. About 70 percent of the EM came from Saxony and 10 percent each came from Mecklenburg, Thuringia and Saxony-Auhalt. About 40 percent of the unit followed the Communist line while 60 percent were opposed to the regime. Prior to 17 June, political indoctrination centered around the history of the Soviet Communist Party and World War II in Soviet view. After 17 June, the consequences of the June 17 uprising were treated. Topics discussed were "The provocations of the American imperialists and their west German stool pigeons" and "KVP Missions after 17 June". In the political indoctrination it was stated that the event on 17 June had been prepared since 1945 and that the reduction of work norms had been decreed already on 11 June 1953 by the SED Central Committee.

8. On 17 June, no special measures were taken by the unit. Only about 6 a.m. on 18 June, the unit was placed on alert status which was extended to about 15 July. The KVPD [redacted] was not employed during the riots. Personnel of the headquarters battery was on leave but was not recalled. In mid-July, a commission of about five medical officers including a former major (med) appeared at the unit. Prior to 20 July, about 50 sick KVPs were discharged in addition to 70 to 80 soldiers of the unit who were declared unsuitable for the KVP. Another 150 soldiers most of them corporals and sergeants were discharged because they had served for more than three years.

[redacted] the discharges [redacted] most of them intended to find employment with the HVDP. 4

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- 25X1 9. On 23 July, 15 infantry soldiers who were transferred to KVPD [redacted] arrived by truck from Prenzlau. About 17 July, Senior Lieutenants Scheede (fmu) and Pehle (fmu) of the reconnaissance unit were sent to Leipzig where they were to qualify in a 4-week course for training in the USSR.

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- 25X1 1. [redacted] Comment. The howitzer artillery regiment involved was renamed Kommando just as all other KVP regiments. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] KVPD [redacted] is stationed in the Stallberg area. Prior to early July 1953, the regiment consisted of 4 battalions with 4 batteries to each battalion and had a total strength of about 1,700 men. After discharging personnel and transferring personnel to TVs [redacted] the regiment dropped to a personnel strength of about 1,000 men.

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- 25X1 2. [redacted] Comment. Most of the Soviet instructors were also withdrawn from other units of Armeegruppe Nord.

- 25X1 3. [redacted] Comment. The transfer of a 152-mm battery to the artillery instruction regiment of TV [redacted] in Cloewen is credible. However, the correctness of the statement that howitzer batteries were transferred to Halle and Gotha is doubted. A KVP infantry unit which is probably not equipped with 152-mm howitzers is stationed in Halle. The AAA instruction regiment of TV [redacted] which should have no use for 122-mm howitzers is stationed in Gotha. It is more probable that the two batteries mentioned were transferred to the artillery instruction regiment of TV [redacted] in Erfurt.

- 25X1 4. [redacted] Comment. The statements on personnel discharged by KVPD [redacted] agrees with other information on discharge operations of the KVP.

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